FORD TO NOMINATE BLACK TO CABINET

Philadelphia Lawyer Picked to Succeed Brinegar

NYT 1/14/75

WASHINGTON, Jan. 13 (UPI) —President Ford will nominate William T. Coleman Jr., a Philadelphia lawyer, as Transportation Secretary in his first appointment of a black Cabinet member, the White House announced today.

Mr. Coleman, who helped write the Supreme Court brief for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People in the 1954 landmark case outlawing school desegregation, will succeed Claude S. Brinegar if confirmed by the Senate. Mr. Brinegar was named to the Cabinet in 1973 in the second Nixon Administration.

The Deputy White House press secretary, John W. Hushen, announced Mr. Coleman's selection and noted that only one other Negro had served in the Cabinet—Robert Weaver, President Johnson's Secretary of Housing and Urban Development from 1966 to 1968.

Mr. Coleman, 54 years old, is president of the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc., and a senior partner of a Philadelphia law firm.

In a telephone interview Mr. Coleman, who is also a director of Pan American World Airways, said he had not planned to take the job but changed his mind in a meeting with Mr. Ford last Monday.

"He impressed me with his grasp of the transportiaton situation," he said.

He would not comment on the question of possible Federal aid for the financially ailing Pan Am. He said he would resign that directorship and his law partnership if confirmed.

Mr. Coleman has been a legal counsel in helping Philadelphia and Cincinnati acquire local transit systems, and has acted in transportation labor matters in Philadelphia.

United Press International
William T. Coleman Jr.

A 1946 magna cum laude graduate of Harvard Law School, he became the first black law clerk in Supreme Court history, serving Justice Felix Frankfurter.

A Republican, Mr. Coleman has served in appointed Federal positions under four Presidents. He was a United Nations delegate and a member of President Nixon's Price Commission.

He is reported to have advised Mr. Nixon to resign rather than undergo an impeachment proceeding. He is on record as saying a President should be allowed to destroy tapes and documents before leaving office.

Mr. Coleman is a board member of the American Stock Exchange and is a director of a number of companies, including the Rand Corporation.

He is a director of the National Civil Service League, the Brookings Institution and the Council on Foreign Relations. He has been active in behalf of Philadelphia civic and artistic endeavors.

Mr. Coleman was married to Lovida Hardin in 1945, and they have three children, William 2d, Lovida and Hardin L.